

EXHIBIT A

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**

ROBYN KRAVITZ, *et al.*

Plaintiffs,

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE, *et al.*

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 18-cv-01041-GJH

**DECLARATION OF ARTURO
VARGAS**

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746(2), I, Arturo Vargas, hereby declare as follows:

1. I serve as the Executive Director of the NALEO Educational Fund. The NALEO Educational Fund is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that facilitates full Latino participation in the American political process, from citizenship to public service. NALEO Board members and its constituency encompass the nation's more than 6,600 Latino elected and appointed officials, and include Republicans, Democrats, and Independents.
2. NALEO has several decades of experience working closely with its Latino elected official constituency, other government officials, and partner organizations, to promote public policies to achieve the most accurate count possible of the nation's population. NALEO Educational Fund has served as a member of the U.S. Census Bureau's national advisory committees since 2000.
3. I currently serve as a member of the U.S. Census Bureau's National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations. I have served in this capacity, or on predecessor Committees, for the past two decennial censuses, under both Republican and Democratic administrations.
4. On May 8th and 9th, 2018, NALEO Educational Fund employees oversaw and attended in-person focus groups with individuals in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Rio Grande Valley, Texas, regarding those individuals' views on issues related to the upcoming decennial census. At each location, one focus group was conducted in English and another in Spanish.
5. A total of 40 individuals participated in these focus groups. Of these 40 participants, 29 reported being U.S. citizens, and 11 non-citizens. Thirty-one participants reported that both of their parents were born outside the United States, while five reported that both of their parents were born in the United States. Each of the 40 participants reported that they personally know others who are not U.S. citizens.
6. Focus group participants reported that they would be less likely to complete a census survey including a question about whether or not they are U.S. citizens than a survey that did not include such a question.
7. Participants asked the focus group moderator whether it would be possible to submit a

partial response to the census that answered some questions, but not questions regarding citizenship status.

8. Participants also expressed a lack of confidence that the data provided would be kept confidential. Some expressed serious concerns that the federal government intends to use decennial census responses for immigration enforcement purposes. Statements from the Spanish language groups in particular reflected the sentiment that it would be especially foolish for a person without lawful immigration status to respond to the decennial census, because they would be creating a document that says they lack lawful status and filing it with the federal government.
9. For instance, one respondent said, “[t]hey are using the census as part of a strategy. They want to know people’s status and their names. The government will make you fill out a form to tell them if you are not legal. They want to clear the U.S. of people without papers. That’s why they are asking about citizenship.”
10. Another stated that to respond to the decennial census would be the equivalent of turning himself and his family in to federal immigration officials.
11. Yet another respondent relayed the following anecdote: “You know in Spanish the word, ‘desconfianza’ [distrust]? Ok that’s how I feel about it. When we got here, me and my mom – a single mom – and my little sister, we were without documents for a long time. It was hard, it was difficult. Those years she was about to be deported, I was in charge of my sister. I was only 15 and my sister was 7. So, for me personally, this gives me that ‘desconfianza’ feeling, asking about citizenship. I don’t think this census is going to be very effective.”

I declare under penalty of perjury that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on this 7th day of June, 2018

/s/ Arturo Vargas

ARTURO VARGAS

Executive Director, NALEO Educational Fund